

REMARKS TO DETAILED ACTION

This is a response to the March 21, 2005 Office Action for the above-captioned application. The following remarks are presented in order of the sections used in the detailed discussion of Examiner's Paper, beginning on page 2 therein:

1. 35 USC § 103(a)

In this section, the Examiner introduces 35 U.S.C. 103(a). No response is required.

2. Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103(a)

In this section, the Examiner rejects claims 23, 24, 31, 32, 36 and 37, as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 5,977,462 to Wolfson. The Applicants wish to remove these claims from further consideration, and so cancel claims 23, 24, 31, 32, 36 and 37, as herein above directed.

3. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicates that claims 25 through 30, and 33 through 35 are objected to as being dependent on rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. Therefore, the Applicants have rewritten claims 25 and 33 in independent form, to include the elements and limitations of base claims 23 and 31, respectively.

Claims 26, 28, and 29 are also revised to properly depend from rewritten claim 25. Claim 27 properly depends from claim 26, and claim 30 properly depends from claim 29, and so claims 27 and 30 are allowable in their previously presented form.

Claim 34 is also revised to properly depend from rewritten claim 33. Claim 35 properly depends from claim 34, and so is allowable in its previously presented form.

5. Conclusion

The Applicants believe that all of the Examiner's concerns have been fully addressed. The Applicants therefore respectfully request a withdrawal of all objections and wish to confirm the allowance of claims 13, 14, 17, 18, 21, 22.

Additionally, the Applicants request that claims 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 33, 34 and 35 all pass to allowance, after entry of the above listed corrections in form. These corrections are all made to comply with the expressed suggestions of the Examiner, as discussed in paragraph 3., above.

6. Fees

Please note that no extension fees are required with this amendment and response. The number of claims presented herein add no additional claims over those previously presented. **However, if additional fees are deemed required for any reason, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the undersigned practitioner's PTO account No. 50-0269, the required small entity fees.**

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the application, he is invited to call Applicants' undersigned representative at (509) 453-1319.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMITTAL BY FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence, and all referenced documents, are being transmitted via facsimile to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington D.C. at facsimile number (703) 872-9306 on the following date:

Date: June 2, 2005

Name: Chris E. Svendsen

Signature:

